

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT DA

SUBJECT: DANISH PRESS REPORTS ON SOVIET OCEAN SHIPPING DUMPING
POLICY

1. DANISH COMMERCIAL DAILY BORSEN CARRIES ARTICLE FEBRUARY
27 DESCRIBING THE ALARMING INCREASE OF SOVIET MERCHANT
MARINE FLEET AND STATES THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS
ACTIVELY PREPARING ITSELF FOR "AN INTERNATIONAL OCEAN
SHIPPING FIGHT AGAINST THE USSR BECAUSE OF ITS MUCH CRITICIZED
OCEAN SHIPPING DUMPING POLICY". BORSEN CONTINUES THAT THE
COMMERCE MINISTRY HAS REQUESTED DETAILED INFORMATION FROM
A.P. MOLLER AND THE EAST ASIATIC COMPANY CONCERNING THE
DAMAGING EFFECTS OF THE USSR POLICY ON DANISH SHIPPING. IT
QUOTES JORGEN WORM OF THE COMMERCE MINISTRY AS STATING
(A) THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THE SOLUTION OF
THIS PROBLEM A HIGH PRIORITY, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS ON
GOVERNMENT LEVEL WITH THE USSR ARE NOT YET PLANNED, AND
(B) THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH
OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THIS MATTER,

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AND THAT THEY ARE PRESENTLY ANALYZING THE PROBLEMS

PRIOR TO THE OECD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE.

2. COMMENT: DANISH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SOVIET SHIPPING THREAT HAS BEEN LIMITED TO DATE. WE ASKED MR. WORM IF THE BORSEN ARTICLE REPRESENTED A GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY ATTEMPT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE USSR. ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, HE IS TRYING TO CALM THINGS DOWN AT THE MOMENT INASMUCH AS HE SEES NO NEED NOW TO SHARPEN EXISTING SOVIET IRRITATION OVER WESTERN CRITICISM. DENMARK WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO FACT-FIND AND CONSULT WITH OTHER SHIPPING COUNTRIES IN ANTICIPATION OF AN EVENTUAL APPROACH TO THE SOVIET UNION IF THE PROBLEM PERSISTS. WORM STATED THAT THE BORSEN ARTICLE QUOTED ABOVE WAS PURELY THE RESULT OF A REPORTER'S INITIATIVE.

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